

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIOMETRY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

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DEPT PASS TO ALL OAU CAPITALS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS MOPS EFIN EAID CG FR BE
SUBJJC CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 137343

1. SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE KAUNDA RELUCTANTLY WOULD ACCEPT THE IDEA OF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE FOR SHABA. KAUNDA CONSISTENTLY HAS SAID THAT MOBUTU MUST TAKE STEPS TO BRING ABOUT RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE POPULATION OF SHABA (I.E., THE LUNDA). HE WOULD SEE AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE AS A PROPPING UP EXERCISE OF LIMITED VALUE IF MOBUTU TAKES NO STEPS TO BRING ABOUT GENUINE RECONCILIATION. KAUNDA DOES NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS; COVHOWGBER, IN THE CASE OF SHABA HE COULD FIND GROUNDS TO ACCEPT IT. FORCE WOULD BE IN PLACE TO ENSURE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ZAIRE--PRINCIPLE WHICH HE APPROVES--AND FORCE WOULD SERVE AT BEHEST OF ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT--MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR KAUNDA TO ARGUE AGAINST IT GIVEN HIS ACCEPTANCE OF A CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. KAUNDA CANNOT BE EXPECTED OPENLY TO APPROVE OF THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE SUPPORTED BY "NATO." HE HAS FOR YEARS CRITICIZED FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY WESTERN MILITARY INTERVENTION. HOWEVER, HIS ACCEPTANCE OF A CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND ANGOLA ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INVITED IN BY THE LEGAL GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE TWO COUNTRIES WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO BLAST AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE REQUESTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE. IN HIS MAY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE, HE STAYED CLEAR OF CASTIGATING THE FRENCH
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AND BELGIANS FOR THEIR INTERVENTION IN KOLWEZI. INSTEAD, HE PUT THEIR INTERVENTION IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THAT OF THE CUBANS, I.E., BOTH WERE INVITED IN BY LEGAL GOVERNMENTS.

3. KAUNDA'S RELATIONS WITH MOBUTU HAVE NEVER BEEN WARM AND FRIENDLY. HE FINDS MOBUTU'S METHODS OF RULING REPUGNANT, BUT HE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT MOBUTU DID BRING SOME SENSE OF ORDER OUT OF THE CHAOS WHICH MARKED ZAIRE IN THE SIXTIES. AT HIS MAY 26 PRESS CONFERENCE, HE REAFFIRMED WHAT HE HAS SAID BEFORE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE--MOBUTU IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN KEEP ZAIRE TOGETHER. IN THE CASE OF SHABA, KAUNDA HAS COUNSELED MOBUTU TO DO MORE IN THE WAY OF WINNING OVER THE POPULATION AND LESS IN THE WAY OF REPRESSION. HE SEES MOBUTU'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW HIS ADVICE AS A GUARANTEE FOR PERPETUAL UNREST IN SHABA.

4. IF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IS PORTRAYED AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR MAINTAINING ORDER IN SHABA, GIVING MOBUTU TIME TO REFORM THE ADMINISTRATION OF THAT PROVINCE, IT WILL HAVE SOMETHING IN THE WAY OF APPEAL TO KAUNDA. HE PROBABLY WOULD WITH SOME RELUCTANCE ACCEPT IT ON THAT UNDERSTANDING. KAUNDA WANTS STABILITY ON HIS NORTHERN BORDER AND AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE COULD PROVIDE THIS. HOWEVER, IF THE FORCE SIMPLY PROVIDES

COVER FOR MOBUTU TO CONTINUE WITH HIS OLD REPRESSIVE WAYS,
AND DOES NOT CALM THE UNREST IN SHABA, KAUNDA COULD RAPIDLY
BECOME DISILLUSIONED.

5. TO HELP ENSURE THAT US SUPPORT FOR AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE
DOES NOT BECOME AN IRRITANT LEADING TO SHARP ATTACKS ON THE
US BY GRZ, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE CONSULT WITH KAUNDA
EARLY ALONG ON OUR INTENTIONS.

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